

TECHNICAL SEARCH SPECIALIST

August 29, 2003

a. Position Description

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for performing the technical search function of the Task Force incident operation. The Technical Search Specialist reports directly to the Search Team Manager.

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for:

- Searching structures in US&R environments or other locations indicated in the mission assignment, using appropriate technical search equipment and techniques;
- Documenting locations of alerts and, if possible, triaging the status of victims for rescue;
- Adhering to all safety procedures;
- Cooperating with and assisting other search and rescue resources;
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs of all issued equipment; and
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

b. Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Technical Search Specialists in the DHS/FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select competent personnel, fully capable of providing state-of-the-art search techniques and tactics required, in the urban disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities.

Knowledge:

The Technical Search Specialist must have:

- An understanding of basic electronic principles and theories;
- Knowledge of the capabilities and operations of the canine search component;
- Knowledge of the proper use and field maintenance of technical search equipment;
- A practical knowledge of search strategy and tactics;
- A practical knowledge of the technical aspects of search theory;
- A practical knowledge of the theory and types of building construction;

- Knowledge of the items included on a reconnaissance list;
- Completed the DHS/FEMA Technical Search Specialist Course; and
- Proficiency with basic rope techniques outlined in NFPA 1670.

Skills:

The Technical Search Specialist must:

- Be proficient at performing basic electronic trouble shooting, in the field;
- Be proficient in the operation of selected technical electronic search equipment in the disaster environment and a thorough familiarization of the manufacturers' spacing operation manuals and technical publications, as provided; and
- Be competent to apply search tactics, strategy, and procedures at collapse sites.

Abilities:

See general requirements.

c. Operational Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Technical Search Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions.

It should be understood that:

- Some required actions may not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position;
- Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another Task Force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position; and
- The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may necessitate deviation.

(1) Upon Activation/At Task Force Assembly Point:

See general operational checklist.

(2) At Point Of Departure:

See general operational checklist.

(3) In Transit:

See general operational checklist.

(4) Arrival at Mobilization Center:

See general operational checklist.

(5) On-Site Operations:

- Prepare technical search equipment for operation;
- Assist with the reconnaissance team evaluation of search areas. Provide technical assistance during rescue operations; and
- Keep the Search Team Manager apprised of any tactical accomplishments.

6) Reassignment/Demobilization:

- Notify the Logistics Section of the loss or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment.